NEWS RELEASE

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LAWRENCE, KANSAS MAN CONVICTED ON DRUG CHARGES

Kansas City, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Marcus L. Foster, Lawrence, Kansas**, was convicted on December 18, 2003, in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, following a four day jury trial. Foster was convicted of one count of conspiracy to possession with intent to distribute, one count to distribute five grams or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine base, "crack," a controlled substance, within 1,000 feet of an elementary school, Woodlawn Elementary, and one count of opening and maintaining a residence for the purpose of distributing cocaine base, "crack," a controlled substance, within 1,000 feet of an elementary school, Woodlawn Elementary.

According to testimony in the trial, Lawrence Police received complaints about the traffic in the area of Foster's residence. A surveillance was set up which effected a traffic stop of an individual in possession of a small quantity of crack. It was determined this individual had purchased drugs from this location for some time. A search warrant was issued for the residence and on April 12, 2003 was executed. Found in the residence was 16.45 grams of crack, and some cash.

Foster will be sentenced in U.S. District Court on March 15, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Lawrence Police Department, the Douglas County/Lawrence Police Department Joint Drug Enforcement Unit, the ATF, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.